

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00369 241703Z

41

ACTION ARA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

----- 109878

O 241445Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO USIZFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2429

UVKLAS GEORGETOWN 0369

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: GUYANESE PRESS COMMENT ON REPORTS OF CUBAN TROOPS IN
GUYANA

USIA FOR IOP/M. DEPARTMENT FOR ARA

REF:7 UU BH

PEE

1. SUMMARY: PRESS COMMENT ON REPORTS OF CUBAN TROOPS IN GUYANA
GREW OVER WEEKEND; REPORTS CALLED PART OF "HOSTILE PROPAGANDA
CAMPAIGN"; PRIME MINISTER BLAMES "HAWKS BENT ON INTERVENTION AND
DESTABILIZATION". END SUMMARY.

2. GOVT-OWNED GUYANA CHRONICLE FEBRUARY 21 HAS REUTER-CANA ITEM FROM
LIMA HEADLINED "US OFFICIALS SHOW CONCERN" STATING THAT "US
IS TRYING TO CHECK VAGUE REPORTS OF INCREASED CUBAN PRESENCE IN
GUYANA". STORY SAID THESE REPORTS WERE DISCUSSED BY KISSINGER WITH
GUYANA'S FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS DURING RECENT WASHINGTON MEETING,
AND NOTES THAT "SMALL NUMBER OF CUBANS" WERE SAID TO BE IN GUYANA
"TO REFUEL PLANES CARRYING CUBAN TROOPS TO ANGOLA". STORY QUOTES
"ONE OFFICIAL" AS SAYING: "WE DON'T KNOW IF THERE ARE CUBAN TROOPS
THERE OR NOT. THESE ARE THE FIRST VAGUE REPORTS YOU GET, AND
WE'RE TRYING TO CHECK THEM" STORY SAYS "BOTH ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA HAVE
VOICED FEARS THAT THE CUBAN TROOPS AND THEIR FOVETELEAPONS MIGHT
BE USED ELSEWHERE".

AND NOTES THAT VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT PEREZ, "WHO HAD STRONGLY
ADVOCATED WELCOMING CUBA BACK INTO THE LATIN COMMUNITY AFTER

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GEORGE 00369 241703Z

YEARS OF ISOLATION, INDICATED TO DR. KISSINGER THAT HE WAS HAVING

SECOND THOUGHTS, ACCORDING TO SENIOR OFFICIAL ABOARD KISSINGER PLANE".

3. FEBRUARY 22 CHRONICLE HAS COMMEPG ENTITLED "GUYANA MALIGNED: WHY THESE WICKED LIES?", SIGNED "ANALYST", WHICH BEGINS: "A WELL-ORCHESTRATED HOSTILE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO BE IN FULL SWING OVERSEAS AGAINST GUYANA BECAUSE OF THIS COUNTRY'S SOCIALIST PHILOSOPHY". ARTICLE SAYS PRINCIPAL ELEMENT IN CAMPAIGN IS ALLEGATION OF MANY CUBANS PRESENT IN GUYANA. "DESPITE PUBLIC STATEMENT BY BURNHAM TO CONTRARY, THE CAMPAIGN ALLEGES THAT GUYANA ALLOWS ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED AS STAGING POST FOR CUBAN TROOPS EN ROUTE TO ANGOLA3

ARTICLE CITES AN OAS BULLETIN CARRYING AP DESPATCH ON AN EDITORIAL "IN AN OBSCURE SPANISH LANGUAGE PAPER PUBLISHED IN MIAMI", "IDENTIFIED AS "DIARIO DE LAS AMERICAS".

WRITER NOTES AP QUOTES THIS PAPER "AS SAYING THAT GUYANA HAD NOT ONLY BECOME A LANDING SPOT FOR CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA BUT ALSO A "SEACOAST CAPITAL ON THE AMERICWB CONTINENT". FURTHER CITING AP QUOTATIONZ

ROM DIARIO: "THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OF GEO VETOWN

IS PRACTICALLY CONTROLLED BY CUBAN ARMED FORCES WHO ARE LANDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THAT COUNTRY IN ORDER TO ESTYGCASW REGULAR LINE BETWEEN CUBA, GUYANA AND GUINEA."

WRITER SAYS DIARIO NOTEDHOENEZUELA-GUYANA BORDER DISPUTE IN THESE TERMS: "GUYANA WXSEEM

FIYB HALLI BEEN CHOSEN AS REARGUARD POINT OF THE EXPEDITIONARY RUSSIAN-CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA SO THAT NATIONALIST MOVEMENT OF GUYANA MAY BE ABLE TO COUNT ON HUMAN AND LOGISTIC RESOURCES TO CONFRONT CLAIMS BY VENEZUELA AND""...INVADE EXTENSIVE TERRC946 8, 5#-5 ...COUNTRY".

WRITER CALLS THESE REPORTS "PREPOSTEROUS... LUDICROUS ALLEGATION". WRITER THEN REFERS TO ABOVE MENTIONED REUTER LIMA REPORT, SAYING THAT LINJING OF REPORTS OF GUYANA'S ROLE IN REFUELING CUBAN PLANES AND STATEMENTS BY ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE OF THEIR CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE USE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA "WOULD TEND TO GIVE THE INCREDIBLE IMPRESSION THAT GUYANAJVMMWOULD ALLOW ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED AS STAGING POST BY ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY AGAINST AN AFRICAN NATION". CITING TWO EARLIER AP REPORTS ON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GEORGE 00369 241703Z

KISSINGER'S STATEMENT THAT US WOULD NOT TOLERATE FUTURE CUBAN FOREIGN INVOLVEMENTS SUCH AS ANGOLA AND FORD ADMINISTRATION STATEMENT REINFORCING US COMMITMENT TO HEMISPHERIC MUTUAL SECURITY, WRITER CALLS THESE REPORTS "THE TIP OF THE HOSTILITY ICEBERG DIRECTED AT GUYANA... TO FREEZE FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS". AND "TO PROMPT OUR NEIGHBORS TO FEEL THEIR OWN SECURITY IS BEING THREATENED BY GUYANA". WRITER CONCLUDES "IT IS BECAUSE THERE ARE THOSE WHO MAY FEEL THERE IS AN UNSTOPPABLE

ATTRACTION IN WHAT GUYANA HAS SET OUT FOR ITSELF... THAT THE HOSTILE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN MOUNTED".

4. CHRONICLE FOR FEBRUARY 23 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE REPORT OF PREVIOUS EVENING'S REPUBLIC DAY SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM HEADLINED "(.-8) 83 -&-8, 5 &76-.-". BURNHAM QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE HAVE BEEN THE OBJECT OF MOST VICIOUS ATTACKS AND PREVARICATIONS BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE FOREIGN MEDIA. THEY HAVE INVENTED THOUSANDS OF CHINESE AND CUBAN GUERRILLAS IN G R HINTERLAND,;' TO FIGHT WHOM"? WHEN ANGOLA CRISIS CAMELN ""WE WELCOMED AND LISTENED TO REPRESENTATIVESHRSMPLA. WE NOTED FNLA U DUNITA WERE ALLIED TO SOUTH AFRICA.. WHICH HAD INVADED ANGOLA- A FACT NOW UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED. WE THEREFORE RECOGNIZED WITHOUT APOLOGY THE MPLA..." CITING A REPORT IN CURRENT ISSUE OF TPE, PAGE 25, WHICHNOTES CONCERN BY VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT PEREZ OVER REPORTS OF CUBAN SOLDIES IN GUYANA BURNHAM REFERRED TO PEREZ' MESSAGE TO HIM ON OCCASION OF REPUBLIC DAY, WHICH NOTED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAD BEEN COLONIES OF EUROPEAN NATIONS AND BOTH NOW FOLLOWING POLICY OF OWNERSHIP OK NATURAL RESOURCES. BURNHAM SAID HE PREFERS TO ACCEPT PEREZ STATEMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP AND IDENTITY OF THRUST "RATHER THAN TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE CYNICAL ATTEMPT OF SOME PAID LACKEY SEEKING TO SOW SEEDS OF DISSENSION BETWEEN NEIGHBORS.. CLEARLY SOME HAWKS ARE BENT ONDISCREDITING GUYANA AND LAYING THE BASIS FOR INTERVENTION AND-OR DESTABILISATION... IN 1966 I SAID I REPEAT TONIGHT, THE GOVT OF GUYANA WILL NOT PERMIT ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED AS A BASE HOSTILE TO ANY HEMISPHERIC STATE". FURTHER, BURNHAM SAID "THERE HAVE BEEN UNOFFICIAL SUGGESTIONS THAT AMERICAN AID TO GUYANWD TILL CEASE. THIS HAS BEENDEINED BY OFFICIWU SPOKESMEN. BUT AS I HAVE ALWAYS SAID, WE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR RELEVANT AID, BUT GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT IS PRIMARILY DEPENDENT UPON THE EFFORTS AND SELF-RELIANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF GUYANA".

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 GEORGE 00369 241703Z

KIBBLE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTERVENTION, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GEORGE00369
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0142
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760220/aaaaargz.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANESE PRESS COMMENT ON REPORTS OF CUBAN TROOPS IN GUYANA
TAGS: PFOR, GY, CU
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006